Indian crew, payment of licence fees, port dues and custom cess etc.

(b) No, Sir. The catch on board the chartered vessels is assessed by the customs authorities and the designated officers appointed by Government before departing for the home port.

(c) Voyage duration of a deep sea fishing vessel depends upon its endurance. On an average the endurance of foreign chartered vessels is about 90 days. However, as per terms and conditions of the Charter, these vessels are required to make mandatory calls at the end of 45th day of fishing operation. Besides, chartered vessels are required to indicate their daily position to the Coast Guard authorities. The crew complement consists of 20 per cent Indian crew members. Violation of the terms and conditions of the charter is punishable under the MZI Act which provides for suspension and cancellation of permits and as well as fines. So far Government have not received any reports regarding off-loading of catch on the high seas or making inter-mediate calls to foreign ports.

(d) The area of operation of chartered foreign fishing vessels, as defined in the Maritime Zone of India, Rules, 1982 as amended in April 1985, ensures that the operation of such vessels does not clash with the interests of traditional fishermen and mechanised boat operators. Hence, there is no need to further amend the Rules in this regard.

Prawns/shrimp catch

2895. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV:

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the catch of prawns/shirmp by the fish trawelers during 1981-82 to 1984-85, year-wise;

(b) whether the catch has declined gradually;

(c) what are the causes for this decrease;

(d) whether it is the result of unplanned exploitation and catching young prawns and even fingerlings using small mesh trawler nets; and

(e) if so, what action Government are taking to prevent such gross misuse of our rich resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Total catch of prawns as compiled on the basis of information received from the States/Union Territories are:

	Lakh tonnes
1981-82	1·64
1982-83	2·10
1983-84 (Provisional)	2·07
1984-85 (Estimated)	2·07

About 60 per cent of the above catch is contributed by fish trawlers.

(b) Prawn catch does not indicate a declining treand, though marginal variations are observed, which are attributable to natural fluctuations.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.